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# Fringe candidate for presidency hassled over U.S. matching funds

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WASHINGTON — He was a conscientious objector in World War II, a member of a Trotskyite sect in the '50s and '60s, and now is the leader



LaRouche

of a small, highly disciplined and well-financed political organization that some have compared to a religious cult. And Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. is running for president again. Unlike other fringe candidates, he has raised enough money to buy 30 minutes of network television time and cause a minor furor over whether he should be granted federal matching funds for his campaign.

The 62-year-old ex-Marxist, making his third try for the presidency, is seeking the Democratic nomination on a stridently anti-Soviet platform.

He used last week's television broadcast (which cost him \$200,000 in advance) to expound his main campaign theme, which is that former Vice President Walter Mondale and the other Democrats have sold out to the Soviets and that only a presidential order declaring a "national defense emergency mobilization" can forestall an imminent nuclear attack by the Soviets.

On Thursday, the Federal Election Commission ruled that he is ineligible to receive matching funds for his 1984 campaign because he failed to fulfill agreements signed in 1980, when he received more than \$526,000 in matching funds in his unsuccessful bid for the Democratic nomination.

For many years, observers and critics of LaRouche have wondered publicly how his relatively small organization, the U.S. Labor Party, which has about 2,000 members nationwide, could generate such large amounts of money (one researcher estimated its annual budget at \$4 million).

One major source of funds has been the LaRouche-sponsored Fusion Energy Foundation, which supports nuclear-generated power. Its conservatively attired salesmen can be found in airports around the country, soliciting contributions and selling expensively priced literature. Ex-members say this operation generates gross receipts of several thousand dollars a week at airports in major cities.

## Darker sources?

Others suggest darker sources. One ex-member of the U.S. Labor Party, Gregory Rose, citing "sources close to" the group, charged five years ago that extreme right-wing groups had secretly funneled large sums into LaRouche's 1976 presidential campaign on the Labor Party ticket, using the far-

right Liberty Lobby as a conduit. LaRouche denied the charge.

Over the years, other LaRouche critics have charged him and his supporters with anti-Semitism, physical intimidation of opponents, psychological indoctrination of members and a variety of "dirty tricks," including impersonating reporters to gain information.

LaRouche has denied those charges and has often claimed that he was targeted for harassment and eventual assassination by enemies that include the FBI, the CIA, the Soviet KGB, British intelligence and pro-Zionist financiers.